

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH KS

SUBJECT: THIRD AND FOURTH NUCLEAR PLANTS

REF: STATE 9750

1. REFTELEX IDENTIFIES ARGUMENTS FAVORING LIGHT WATER ENRICHED URANIUM REACTORS. BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF KOREAN PROGRAM, AEC SCIREP WOULD LIKE EXPAND ON SEVERAL OF THESE ARGUMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO KOREAN OFFICIALS.

2. LWR'S HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY MOST OF WORLD'S INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHEREAS ONLY CANADA IS PROMOTING NATURAL URANIUM HEAVY WATER REACTOR. THEREFORE, IF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS SHOULD DEVELOP, WHICH IS NOT UNUSUAL IN APPLICATION OF RELATIVELY NEW TECHNOLOGY, A MAJORITY OF WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BASE (US, GERMANY, JAPAN, FRANCE, ITALY--TO NAME SOME) WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SOLVE LWR PROBLEM BUT ONLY LIMITED INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BASE OF CANADA FOR SOLVING NATURAL URANIUM, HEAVY WATER REACTOR PROBLEM.

3. THERE IS INTENSE COMPETITION AMONG SUPPLIERS OF LWR'S WHEREAS THERE IS ONLY ONE SOURCE FOR ATURAL URANIUM HEAVY WATER REACTOR SO THAT IF KOREANS BECOME COMMITTED TO LATTER, BENEFITS OF COMPETITION MIGHT NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, IN VIEW OF LIMITED SIZE OF KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, BENEFITS OF CONCEN-TRATING ON SINGLE TECHNOLOGY WOULD SEEM TO FAR OUTWEIGH ANY AD-UNCLASSIFIED

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VANTAGES THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM CONTINUED COMPETITION BETWEEN

NATURAL URANIUM AND HEAVY WATER REACTORS.

4. BOTH KECO AND KOREAN GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY LATTER, HAVE ENCOUNTERED GREAT DIFFICULTY IN DEVELOPING EXPERTIZE (IN TERMS OF TRAINING PEOPLE AND GATHERING NECESSARY TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY DATA) TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SAFE OPERATION OF LWR'S, TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE CRITERIA AND TO ACTUALLY ASSURE THAT LATTER HAS BEEN AND IS BEING DONE. THIS EXPERTIZE STILL BEING DEVELOPED FOR LWR'S AND ADOPTION OF ANOTHER

AND DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGY WOULD INTRODUCE REQUIREMENT FOR SIMILAR CAPABILITY IN THAT AREA. RESULTING DILUTION OF EFFORT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF LIMITATIONS ON TECHNICAL MANPOWER, COULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON KOREAN PROGRAM.
SHOESMITH

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